

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled):

Claim 14 (previously presented): A combined bearing comprising:

a cylindrical main body defining an axial hole and a plurality of cutouts in communication with said axial hole at different axial positions, each of said cutouts radially extending through said main body within a 180 degree range; and

a plurality of mating members compliantly received in the corresponding cutouts, respectively, each of said mating members defining an inner curved surface conformable to said axial hole and an outer curved surface conformable to an exterior surface of said main body; wherein

at least one of said main body and said mating members is made of ceramic material while the rest is/are made of metal alloy.